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## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, at 10 a.m.

## House of Representatives

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2011

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, in You we discover infinite possibilities. May sincere prayer lead to determined action. May those who are doubtful or cynical be renewed in patriotism. May those who feel powerless look within for deeper strength. May those who are most sensitive and loving find authentic ways to express themselves. May those filled with complaints learn satisfying dialogue in another. May those caught in dependencies and compulsions be freed. May those overwhelmed with complexity take one step forward. May those with limited resources build upon personal gifts. May those who think themselves incapable be supportive and encourage others. May those who believe deeply discern signs that dreams do come true and prayers are answered.

Lord, may a whole new generation uncover creative responses to that ever-present challenge: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain five 1-minute speeches on each side.

### SPENDING AND FOREIGN AID

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, finally Congress says it will rein in out-of-control spending. My neighbors in Texas are a little cynical and say, "Prove it." One suggestion I keep hearing is regarding foreign aid. My friend, Sammy Mahan, a towing service operator, told me to quit giving money to dictators. Well, there's a thought.

There are 192 countries, and the United States gives money to roughly 150 of them. With our economic times, 15 million unemployed and the debt monster looming over us, it's time we reevaluate the citizen money we give away.

Someone has said that "foreign aid is taking money from the poor people in

rich nations and giving it to rich people in poor nations". And many of these receivers of taxpayer money don't even like us. As my friend, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. LOUIE GOHMERT says, "We don't need to pay them to hate us. They'll do it on their own."

We even give money away to China. We should reevaluate the money we give each nation. I suspect Israel and maybe a few others would and should receive U.S. help, but the rest need to go it on their own. After all, we should take care of America first.

And that's just the way it is.

### DON'T REPEAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, yesterday was an unfortunate day in this Chamber. The majority party voted to bring our Nation back to a system where insurance companies' needs are placed before those of middle class Americans.

The truth is that millions of Americans are already benefiting from health care reform. Insurers are no longer allowed to discriminate against children and others who are sick; small businesses are receiving billions of dollars in tax credits; and seniors are saving money on prescription drugs and are receiving free preventive care through Medicare, including 72,000 seniors in my district alone.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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If repealed, these benefits will be removed and the impact on my district will be devastating. The number of uninsured in my district will increase by 104,000 people; 326,000 residents would yet again be vulnerable to insurers' devious practices, such as lifetime limits and rescission; and insurers could once more deny coverage for up to 294,000 individuals in my district alone, including 35,000 children with a preexisting condition.

Madam Speaker, we should concentrate on creating jobs, not repealing health reform for middle class Americans.

#### HONORING THE GUARDIANS OF THE NATIONAL CEMETERY IN BUCKS COUNTY, PA

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a group that has made a difference in our country, the Guardians of the National Cemetery in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. This is a group comprised entirely of volunteers who have assumed the mission and duty of performing many of the sacred functions of the National Cemetery in Washington Crossing, Bucks County.

Today, the Guardians, led by their President, Antonio Albano, are 250 members strong. Among this proud group are the visionaries that fought to bring the National Cemetery to its current location in Bucks County. They worked tirelessly through the selection process with the VA not only to select the site, but also to prove that there will always be a dedicated group of individuals willing and able to provide the necessary services to those who rest in this solemn place and to their families.

After the VA made the wise decision to locate the cemetery in Bucks County, the Guardians immediately began the work they have become known for—organizing services on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, as well as placing wreaths on the graves of our veterans. These are just some of the things the Guardians do to bring comfort to the bereaved and to honor those who have served us.

Madam Speaker, honoring the work of the Guardians of the National Cemetery is particularly fitting today, January 20, 2011, because today marks the 1-year anniversary of the first veteran laid to rest at the Washington Crossing National Cemetery, a place that the Guardians have now helped to make hallowed ground.

Tonight, the Guardians will gather to mark this occasion and pay tribute to the veterans who have been laid to rest at the National Cemetery. I am honored to make note of their achievements here on the floor of the House this morning and will be honored to be among them this evening.

#### HEALTH CARE REPEAL AND JOBS

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Instead of focusing on creating new jobs and helping middle class families, our Republican friends want to turn back the clock. We all know this week's vote to repeal and replace the health reform is nothing but political fiction, with no intention of doing anything to improve health care. It's just a smoke screen. The reality is that a repeal of reform will be bad for our economy and worse for American families and businesses.

In my district alone, repealing health care reform would discriminate against the 305,000 people who suffer from pre-existing conditions—129 million nationwide. It would eliminate tax credits for 10,000 small businesses, kick 5,000 young adults off their parents' insurance plans—and 1.2 million nationwide—and it throws more than 5,000 seniors back into the doughnut hole of higher drug costs—2.7 million nationwide.

Let's stand with American families and say "yes" to more jobs and "no" to all efforts to repeal health reform.

□ 0910

#### NEXT STEP: REAL REFORM TO OBAMACARE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, yesterday the House passed a bill that repealed the liberal unconstitutional health care takeover. I would like to congratulate my colleagues who voted in favor of the repeal of the job-killing health law act. The winning margin was new conservative Members elected in November to truly promote limited government and expanded freedom.

Our work is not yet complete. Today, the House will be voting on true, real health care reform authored by Chairman DAVID DREIER—reform that can make health care accessible, reform that will make health care affordable, reform that will not eliminate small businesses.

I hope all Members will work together for this kind of health care reform. The measure we are voting on today will not deprive seniors of care. It will not create long waiting lines for the sick. It will not burden future generations of Americans with massive debt.

Madam Speaker, this is the kind of health care reform Americans want to see. It's a solution for our families who need to preserve the doctor-patient relationship.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### LOOKING AT THE VIOLENCE IN TUCSON

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, in the wake of the tragedy in Tucson 10 days ago, there has been a lot of soul searching, a lot of introspection, and a lot of commentary about what was behind the tragedy there and what motivated Jared Loughner to take the action he did.

It's become the judicious and kind of the politically correct thing to say, Oh, it was just one madman doing something. We can't ascribe responsibility to anything else.

I think that's too easy. I think that's a cop-out.

The fact is that Jared Loughner did not try to attack the community college that threw him out, any of the employers who had fired him, or anybody in his family. He singled out GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, an elected official of the United States Government. And one has to wonder whether all of the talk in recent years about tyrannical governments and the demonization of politicians did not in some way guide that madman to her instead of another target.

I think we need to not just write this off as a senseless tragedy and an inexplicable one. We need to delve into it more deeply and decide whether the rhetoric that's out there in the media environment had something to do with this tragic event.

#### TWO GREAT PRESIDENCIES

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

Madam Speaker, those are among the brilliant words that 50 years ago today were delivered by President John F. Kennedy as he was inaugurated. In 3 hours we are going to be marking that inaugural with a ceremony in the great rotunda. And I think it's very important, Madam Speaker, as we do that to remember not only John F. Kennedy's commitment to our Nation's security, but to once again underscore his passionate commitment to our economic security by his implementation of pro-growth economic policies that were replicated 30 years ago today when Ronald Reagan became President of the United States and pursued the same kinds of pro-growth policies that President John F. Kennedy pursued.

I hope very much, Madam Speaker, that we can learn from the lessons of both of these great Presidencies.